

## **Book Notes – “Recent increase of library thefts”**

### **Denver Campus Library News**

Has this happened to you?

Beep! Beep! Beep! Lights flash as the library gate alarm goes off. You just finished printing out a research paper in computer lab L01 and you're leaving the library. You're late for class and you hear someone call out "Could you please come back to the desk!"

As you walk back to the check out desk you are flooded with emotions -- irritation – that you are going to be late for class, embarrassment – that you've set off the alarm and everyone is looking, and annoyance that you are being inconvenienced.

This may seem unnecessary, but the library has been experiencing a dramatic increase in theft and damage of library materials this year. Since September 2004, there have been over 20 thefts and instances of vandalism. In two cases, the library staff caught students leaving with unchecked out library materials - - the call numbers and barcodes had been ripped off in an attempt to bypass the library gates. Upon questioning, the students admitted to the wrongdoing. In two other instances, Library staff found items in quiet corners of the library with similar damage. Fortunately, these students had a change of heart. On other occasions, magazines have vanished without a trace and pages of Reserve books have been removed. No surprise, these pages contained crucial reading assignments.

Although the combined face value of these items amounts to \$1,000, how much are they worth to you when you need them for an assignment and they are not available? Can you put a dollar amount on them?

The Library's goal is to provide all students with access to the books, magazines and videos to meet their academic needs. Library materials are not the possession of any single individual, but rather University property that is meant to be shared by all. Theft or malicious damage of these materials is considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. While the vast majority of students would never consider doing this, the unfortunate reality is that it does happen. So, the next time you hear -- Beep! Beep! Beep! ...